

## **HISTORICAL BUILDINGS AND SITES COMMISSION**

### **SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

**March 29, 2016 – 6:00 P.M.**

**Courtyard Conference Room**

#### **A. ROLL CALL:**

The Historical Buildings and Sites Commission met in regular session on the above date with Chair Ward Warren presiding. Vice Chair Dan McBerty and Commissioners Arden McConnell, Virginia Ford, Shirley Holzinger, and Don Hendricks were present. Also present was City Council Liaison Dennis Roler and representing the City staff was Parks & Community Development (hereafter: PCD) Director Lora Glover.

#### **B. Discussion and drafting of a letter regarding the benefits of being located in the Historic District**

- There was a letter needed that was a summary of the new guidelines and the potential benefits of being part of the expansion.
- Commissioner Warren drafted a rough draft of the letter.
- One benefit is potential significant state financial benefits for those that qualify. These were put in place to encourage people to enhance their historic properties so they give tax breaks. You have to go by their guidelines but the guidelines are realistic and reasonable.
- There could also be possible City grants in the future – funds have been depleted but there will likely going to be more in the future.
- Councilor Roler brought up ideas in the past and Councilor Riker had some ideas of having identifying plaques that talk about the origins and history of the building. Need to look into funding and such on how to make that happen
- The letter should hopefully correct some of the misinformation and possibly bring some people back in and keep others from leaving.
- Can the Commission get help from the City on mailing? – Yes, Lora would prefer double sided with an arrow directing people to flip the page
- Commissioner McConnell said that she is delighted to see this; we've been beaten to death with lies and misinformation. This needs to go out to everyone.

- The other letter went out to about 150 business owners and 150 building owners. This letter will go out to the same mailing list.
- Commissioner McConnell would like to see Council get the letter, would like to see UAPC get it, anyone who has any “fingers in the pie”.
- Commissioner Ford asked if there were any replies to the original letter? Lora said no replies
- Lora said if you send the draft to her she'll make some formatting revisions. Lora would correct the part that calls the HBSC an advisory board only and would change that to recommending board.
- Lora would like to remove her name and put in the city planning number and name only. Joe, Justin, and Shelley can all answer questions.
- Dennis likes the part about who the Commission is – not bureaucrats but rather citizen volunteers.
- There was a concern that the letter never talks about preservation, restoration, the heart of the city. It feels like we're fighting back at the critics and not talking about the importance of why we're doing this.
- Lora suggested that we use some of the background Justin wrote on the Commission and use it in the letter.
- Add to the intro – “By expanding the historic district the city will be able to further preserve and protect the historic features of our downtown.”
- Included the discussion about the reduced map.
- Everyone is good with keeping the last HBSC recommended district proposal.
- These should go out in the next two days.

Next meeting: April 21, 2016

These minutes were prepared by Carlie Paulsen, Administration Department, City of Grants Pass.